

Virginia Cooperative Extension
York County Office
100 County Drive, PO Box 532, Yorktown, VA 23690-0532
(757) 890-4940 / Fax 890-4033
jorband@vt.edu



The Green Thumb

A Newsletter of Extension Horticultural Activities and Events
For York County Extension Volunteers

Vol. 4, Issue 10
October 1, 2003

Calendar of Events

Sept. 25-Oct. 5	Virginia State Fair (see previous article in Sept. Green Thumb)
Nov. 11, 6:30pm	Programming Meeting, St. Luke's
Nov. 6, 9:30am-12:00n	Office Phone Resources Training, Extension Office
Nov. 13, 7-9pm	TAP Seminar – <i>Tree Hazards</i> , NBG Holly Room; Reg. Req.
Nov. 14	2003 MG Graduation
Nov. 21, 12n-1pm	HearSay – 89.5 FM
Nov. 25, 10am	Hort. Therapy, Seena 898-6553
Nov. 27-28	Extension Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 2-4	Preparing Dudley Diggs home for Home Tour (TBA)
Dec. 5	Yorktown Christmas Tree Lighting
Dec. 6, 10am-6pm	Christmas Homes Tour

Thursdays Work/Learn Day in the Learning Garden 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

For additions/corrections to the Calendar of Events contact Jody at 890-4940 or Wanda Turner at 898-0653, e-mail: wgt00@cox.net. The deadline for the Green Thumb is ALWAYS the 15th of the month, no exception.

E-mail changes: If you have changes to any of the methods of communication to you please notify Jody. Jody will pass the word. We want to keep in contact with you. These changes will be posted to the weekly e-mails and will be in the Green Thumb.

For a revised and current Peninsula Master Gardener Training Schedule go to www.yorkcounty.gov/vce on the York County Master Gardeners page.

Master Gardener Mission Statement

Our mission, as trained volunteers in partnership with the York County, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, is to provide horticultural educational opportunities to the public through research-based horticultural programs and activities to enhance our environment, lives and community.

www.ext.vt.edu

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless, of race, color, religion, sex, age, veteran status, national origin, disability, or political affiliation. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Notes from Jim

I am disappointed to inform you that we have canceled the Landscape Extravaganza. Due to the fact that many of the Goodwin Neck buildings are still being utilized for emergency operations, and also the fact that the Learning Garden took a hard hit, we decided it was necessary to cancel the program. Thanks to Teela for her organization of the event and all of the speakers that were so willing to present. We are satisfying the needs of registrants with publications and questions answered.

Be sure to sign up for the class on "Using Resources in the Unit Office." There is a limit of 5 individuals per class, so sign up now.

In a separate mailing this month, you will receive flyers, as we do every year, to solicit your involvement in the program for 2004. Please think about what areas you would like to be involved in, and then volunteer for those specific areas. I will look forward to your response.

"Most Common Plants" Reprinting

This great reference book will be printed again. Ordering deadline is September 30, 2003. The "Most Common Plants" assist the Master Gardeners in identifying various plants found in our areas. If you would like a copy, please send a check for \$20.00, made payable to York County 4-H Activity Fund, to Evelyn Parker, 27 Dryden Drive, Poquoson, VA 23662.

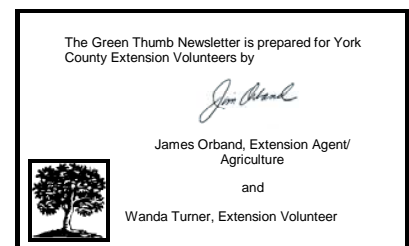
Thanks, Evelyn Parker

YCMG Embroidered Clothing Order

Time again to place your order for the YCMG embroidered clothing items. An order form is attached for your use. Deadline for ordering is October 31, 2003.

Upcoming Programming Meeting

Our next programming meeting is to be held at St. Luke's on October 14, 2003 from 9:30am-11:30am. Check the board at the back entrance for the correct room number. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Please bring a non-perishable food item to contribute to the food closet. Their supplies are seriously depleted due to Hurricane Isabel. Also, remember to wear your nametags. Hope to see you there!



Nature Photography

The following is a press release from The Butterfly Society of Virginia:

Charlie Davis, a professional photographer with more than 30 years experience, will be guest speaker at the Butterfly Society of Virginia meeting on Sunday, October 19, 2003, at 2:00 p.m., in the Auditorium of the Norfolk Botanical Garden. Mr. Davis' talk, "Random Ramblings Regarding Photography," will touch on nature photography, understanding the terminology used in describing cameras and how they work, and differences between film and digital cameras. He will also discuss techniques for using various cameras and equipment in photographing nature and other subjects.

After a 14-year career with the Justice Department in Washington, D.C., as a photographer and visual information specialist, including research, design, training, and graphic design and fabrication, he worked in Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia in several professional level photography stores. He keeps current with the constantly changing technology, including advances in digital photography. Having used a wide assortment of equipment in all formats of traditional photography, he now uses primarily a Canon EOS 35mm and Canon digital cameras and is ranked a Master Photographer by Canon USA. Mr. Davis teaches photography to small groups and individuals, and also restores old photographs using computers. The Norfolk Botanical Garden is on Azalea Garden Road between Little Creek Road and Norview Avenue in Norfolk, Virginia. The Butterfly Society meetings are free and open to the public. Members of the Butterfly Society or Norfolk Botanical Garden with membership cards will be admitted to the Garden at no charge; regular admission fees to the Garden will apply for non-members.

The Butterfly Society of Virginia, Inc., established in 1992, is a non-profit organization whose purposes are education, conservation and promotion of butterfly gardening and habitat.

Hiking Sticks

WANTED, straight tree branches, trunks, sticks, 4' - 6' long, between one half inch to one and one quarter inch thick, (give or take a bit), suitable for use as hiking sticks for Cub Scouts. Harry Haley is collecting sticks for a Pack 200 project. He is looking for hardwoods, such as crepe myrtle, oak, walnut, sassafras, hickory, nandina or whatever else may work that will provide adequate strength without messy sap, not too heavy or whippy, in a pole that Cub Scouts can use and carve on. Call him at 898-1205 for more specs or pickup. Drop offs at the Extension Office are OK.

Helena Letzelter

Helena Letzelter, a great gardener, died September 15 after suffering from a stroke two weeks before. Helena was a member of the Hampton Roads Horticultural Society, the Virginia Wildlife Rehabilitators, a free lance garden consultant, and a Hampton Master Gardener. Many York County Master Gardeners were able to enjoy Helena's beautiful garden in July during our "Learning Through Visits" Program. If you would like to make a memorial to Helena, you can make it in the form of a contribution to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, 405 S. Parliament Drive, Suite 105, Virginia Beach 23462

Hurricane Isabel Clean-Up

The following is a publication from Virginia Cooperative Extension titled – *The Storm Damaged Landscape after a Disaster* – Publication Number 490-329, Aug. 1996

Check List:

1. Cleanup is the first priority.
2. Site analysis: If landforms have been altered, these need to be reshaped. Don't allow heavy equipment to move close to trunks of remaining shrubs and trees. Remember that most roots extend well beyond the outer branches; therefore, heavy equipment can damage roots and compact soil.
3. Tilted plants should be reset and staked.
4. If portions of uniform plantings, such as hedges, were taken out by the storm, select replacements as close to size as feasible. Don't buy little replacements and prune the remaining plants drastically to make them match. Wait until late winter before pruning to help re-establish uniform size.
5. Trim partially damaged shrubs and trees as lightly as possible to reshape. Complete reshaping could take several growing seasons. Make a careful decision on this. For example, if one third of a plant is missing, replacement might be a better choice than commitment to "nursing" the plant back into shape with pruning, fertilizing, watering. A damaged plant will be a "shocked" plant.
6. How much damage is too much damage to warrant replacement? If heavy splitting of bark occurred, exposing the cambium, a plant will probably not survive. Leave woody plants that are doubtful in place and wait. Check periodically by scraping bark lightly to check for green (living) tissue.
7. Some uprooted plants can be reset if the root ball is fairly intact with a compact root system and white healthy roots are showing and most of the top growth remains.
8. Prepare remaining plants for overwintering. Mulch with three to four inches of pine straw, peanut hulls, pecan shells, etc. Recent research shows that established shrubs and trees can be given a one-half rate fertilization after the first freeze. For rates, check with your county Extension agent. Don't fertilize newly set plants. Wait until late winter or very early spring just before new growth.
9. If you plan to hire gardeners to do the repair work, get written bids describing what will be done and at what cost. Contact your county Extension agent if you think the bids are unusually high.

Don't move deciduous plants until after their leaves are off.

Be prepared to deal with possible shortages of some plant materials. If desired plants aren't available, substitutions using plants with similar characteristics and qualities might have to be made. Check with your Extension agent if this becomes a problem; alternative plants can be recommended.

New flower and shrub beds can be established now. When soil is workable, cultivate to a depth of eight to 12 inches. Work in two to three inches of peat moss or compost. Spread 1/2 cup of 5-10-10 or 10-10-10 per square yard of bed area. Don't add fertilizer to planting holes for spring flowering bulbs, however. Some gardeners add a small amount of bonemeal at planting to encourage stronger foliage later.

If extensive replacement is necessary, select some fast-growing shrubs and trees to plant near slower growing selections. After slow-growers become established, faster growing (and perhaps less desirable) plants can be moved or taken out.

Based on information developed by Clemson Cooperative Extension following Hurricane Hugo.

Revised for Virginia audiences by Virginia Cooperative Extension.

We're on the Web!

www.yorkcounty.gov/vce

October 2003

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 7-9pm TAP Seminar <i>Tree Health Care</i> NBG Holly Rm.	10	11
12	13	14 9:30am Programming Meeting St. Luke's	15	16 9:30am-12N Office Resources Training	17 12n-1pm HearSay 89.5 Radio Program	18
19 2:00pm Butterfly Society (see Article)	20 Yorktown Day County Offices closed	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 10am Hort. Therapy Seena 898-6553	29	30	31 DEADLINE To order embroidered clothing	